

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-11 OIC-02 JUSE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /153 W
-----031649 231932Z /72

O 231902Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1298
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USMTN

USEEC

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY FOR ACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FORMAL TNC MEETING

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL LONG REPORTED LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST ON BEHALF OF SOME 30 TO 35 PARTICIPANTS IN THE TOKYO ROUND FOR A TNC MEETING. HE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO REFUSE SUCH A REQUEST SINCE (A) IT HAS BEEN MADE FORMALLY AND (B) IT REPRESENTS SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS. HE PLANS TO CONSULT WITH OTHER CP'S ON MONDAY AND EXPECTS TO GIVE THEM A REPLY ON TUESDAY.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING ACCORDING TO THE REQUEST IS
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TO (A) "KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE NEGOTIATIONS" AND
(B) "TO TAKE STOCK OF THE PRESENT SITUATION." PART OF
THEIR MOTIVATION WAS A REPORT IN THE FINANCIAL TIMES THAT
THE BIG THREE HAD SET A DEADLINE OF JULY 5 "TO AGREE ON A
NEGOTIATING POSITION WITH THE LDC'S."

3. ALTHOUGH THE TIMING IS CLEARLY AWKWARD, A TNC MIGHT

BE USED FOR OUR OWN POLITICAL AND NEGOTIATING ADVANTAGE IF WE CAN GET THIS SESSION SCHEDULED QUICKLY. LONG HAS SUGGESTED THE DATE OF JULY 3 WHICH, IF NOTICES ARRIVED AT CP'S NEXT WEDNESDAY, WOULD GIVE THE MINIMUM RESPECTABLE NOTICE TIME FOR SUCH A SESSION. IF THE TNC COULD BE CONVENED AT THAT TIME, HE SAYS HE WOULD THEN BE IN A POSITION TO AVOID ANY FURTHER TNC SESSIONS THROUGH THE HEAT OF THE FINAL NEGOTIATING STAGE.

4. HIS VIEW OF THE MEETING WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) A PROGRESS REPORT AREA BY AREA AND CODE BY CODE,

(B) AN ASSURANCE THAT NO DEAL HAS ALREADY BEEN STRUCK IN FINAL FORM; CONSEQUENTLY, NO CP CAN SAY THEY HAVE BEEN FROZEN OUT OF THE ACTION, AND

(C) AN EMPHASIS ON THE POINT THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL UNDERWAY ACTIVELY AND THAT THE FINAL PACKAGE CAN STILL BE INFLUENCED.

THE SESSION WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE A LONG AND BORING ORDEAL, CONTINUING ALL DAY AND PROBABLY WELL INTO THE NIGHT. IT WOULD LARGELY CONSIST OF FAIRLY LENGTHY DESCRIPTIONS OF GATT PAPERS ALREADY DISTRIBUTED AND COMMENTS ON WHERE THINGS STAND INTERMINGLED WITH RE-STATEMENTS BY LDC'S OF THEIR DEMANDS.

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5. ALTHOUGH A TNC AT THIS POINT IS RISKY AND A FURTHER TIME-CONSUMING COMPLEXITY, IT MIGHT WELL SERVE THE USEFUL PURPOSE OF NEGATING THE CONSTANT CLAIM THEY DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATION. IT MIGHT ALSO ADD CREDIBILITY AND THE APPEARANCE OF A BROADER BASE OF MULTILATERAL SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT BEING DEVELOPED FOR JULY 15. CERTAINLY, IF A TNC IS TO BE SCHEDULED, AND APPARENTLY ONE NOW SEEMS REQUIRED SOMETIME BEFORE JULY 15, THE SOONER THE DATE THE BETTER IN ORDER NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS DOWN THE LINE.

6. FORTUNATELY, NO FORMAL PREPARATION WOULD BE NEEDED BY THE U.S. DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A GENERAL PROGRESS REVIEW TNC. WE ARE DOING SO ALREADY ON ALMOST A DAILY BASIS IN SEVEN-PLUS-SEVEN SESSIONS.

7. PLEASE FORWARD REACTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS BY MONDAY FOR DISCUSSION THAT DAY WITH LONG. MCDONALD

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Message Attributes

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